

of New Orleans was submerged for nearly one month in deadly flood waters;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina devastated institutions of higher education, including Delgado Community College, Dillard University, Loyola University New Orleans, Southern University at New Orleans, Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, and Xavier University of Louisiana;

Whereas nearly two years later, all colleges and universities in New Orleans have reopened, but enrollment is lagging, major infrastructure has not yet been rebuilt, many public schools remain closed, and private and public schools that have reopened are struggling to recover;

Whereas prior to Hurricane Katrina, the population of New Orleans was 484,674; but nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina, little more than half of New Orleans residents have been able to return to their homes;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the capabilities of State and local governments and Congress appropriated billions of dollars for emergency response needs, such as evacuations, repairs, deployment of personnel, and other immediate relief efforts;

Whereas nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina, disaster relief efforts continue to be needed, especially for hundreds of thousands of displaced citizens;

Whereas Hurricane Rita made landfall along the border of Louisiana and Texas on September 24, 2005, as the fourth most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, causing \$9.4 billion in property damage;

Whereas Hurricane Rita completely destroyed several towns in Southwest Louisiana along the border of Texas and washed tons of potentially hazardous debris into the area's marshes, causing severe economic loss, detrimental health effects, and deaths;

Whereas Congress has responded to the devastation of the Gulf Coast region by providing billions of dollars in assistance, including tax relief efforts such as the Gulf Opportunity Zone, student aid, and disability services to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and nearly two years later, Congress continues to provide assistance to expedite economic recovery in the region; and

Whereas the people of the United States have been extremely generous in their support for the Gulf Coast region, in addition to the outpouring of assistance from the international community, which continues to support the recovery efforts in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of the Gulf Coast region to the economy of the United States;

(2) recognizes the importance of the cultural contributions of the people of the Gulf Coast to the United States; and

(3) expresses its support for all individuals still affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita two years after these terrible natural disasters struck.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina made a devastating impact on Florida and the Gulf Coast states in the last days of August 2005, followed within weeks by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma. These disasters will long be remembered for disrupting families, changing and ending lives, and forcing Americans to rethink about our preparedness and ability to respond effectively to disasters. Unfortunately, these hurricanes served as a catalyst for changes in federal policy and government management within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA).

Most of those changes were included in Title VI of the DHS appropriations legislation for FY2007. It established new leadership positions and requirements within FEMA. Additionally, it brought new missions into FEMA and enhanced the agency's authority by directing the FEMA Administrator to undertake a broad range of activities before and after disasters.

Although, Congress has responded to the devastation of the Gulf Coast region by providing billions of dollars in assistance, more resources are needed to expedite the economic recovery in this region.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative William Jefferson for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 2007 NBA CHAMPION SAN ANTONIO SPURS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 490) honoring the 2007 NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 490

Whereas on June 14, 2007, the San Antonio Spurs won the 2007 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship with a victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers;

Whereas the Spurs' win results in their fourth NBA Championship in the last 9 years;

Whereas the Spurs, after sweeping the Cavaliers to decisively win the Finals 4-0, are widely recognized as a modern-day basketball dynasty;

Whereas San Antonio's four-game sweep was only the eighth sweep since the finals began in 1947;

Whereas the Spurs' .727 winning percentage is the highest in finals history;

Whereas under the leadership and instruction of Coach Gregg Popovich, the Spurs' Tony Parker, Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Robert Horry, Bruce Bowen, Michael Finley, Fabricio Oberto, Francisco Elson, Jacque Vaughn, and Brent Barry played together as a team with determination and resolve to bring the NBA trophy back home to the Alamo City;

Whereas Tony Parker was named the Finals Most Valuable Player after using his speed and quickness to average 24.5 points and an amazing 57 percent from the field during the Finals, becoming the first European-born player to be honored as MVP;

Whereas Tim Duncan and Bruce Bowen anchored the Spurs with stifling defense throughout the NBA Finals;

Whereas Manu Ginobili used his pinpoint three-point shooting and strong drives to the basket to lead the Spurs to victory in Game 4 with 27 points;

Whereas Coach Gregg Popovich is recognized as one of the greatest coaches of all

time after winning his fourth NBA Championship; and

Whereas San Antonio has the best fans in the league and the Alamo City is the perfect setting for a championship celebration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the San Antonio Spurs and Coach Gregg Popovich for winning the 2007 National Basketball Association Championship.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, 2007, the San Antonio Spurs won the 2007 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship with a victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers. This was the Spurs fourth NBA Championship in the last 9 years.

I join all my colleagues in congratulating the San Antonio Spurs and Coach Gregg Popovich for winning the 2007 National Basketball Association Championship.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE DETROIT TIGERS FOR WINNING THE 2006 AMERICAN LEAGUE PENNANT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 488) congratulating the Detroit Tigers for winning the 2006 American League Pennant and for bringing the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan their first trip to the World Series in 22 years, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 488

Whereas this is the 10th American League Pennant won by the Detroit Tigers;

Whereas Manager Jim Leyland is a 3 time Manager of the Year and 1 of 7 managers in the history of baseball to win the pennant in both the National and American Leagues;

Whereas the manager and coaching staff have done a remarkable job guiding this team to victory;

Whereas General Manager Dave Dombrowski and Owner Mike Ilitch have assembled and led a team that has revitalized the Tigers franchise;

Whereas all 25 players on the playoff squad contributed to their remarkable postseason victories over the New York Yankees and the Oakland Athletics, including American League Rookie of the Year Justin Verlander, as well as Magglio Ordóñez, Iván Rodríguez, Jeremy Bonderman, Kenny Rogers, Sean Casey, Carlos Guillén, Alexis Gómez, Omar Infante, Plácido Polanco, Brandon Inge, Craig Monroe, Marcus Thames, Curtis Granderson, Ramón Santiago, Neifi Pérez, Nate Robertson, Todd Jones, Jason Grilli, Zach Miner, Wilfredo Ledezma, Fernando Rodney, Joel Zumaya, Jamie Walker, and Vance Wilson;

Whereas the Detroit Tigers have a history of great players and managers, including Ty Cobb, Al Kaline, Hank Greenberg, and Sparky Anderson;